

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04456 171637 Z

44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-12 SY-10 EB-11 M-03 A-01 COME-00 INT-08

TRSE-00 GAC-01 SCEM-02 CIEP-02 OMB-01 RSR-01 /166 W
----- 091823

P R 171505 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1694

DIA WASHDC

INFO CINCEUR

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USUN NEW YORK 2286

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4456

DEPT PASS CAIRO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ENRG, ETRN, US, LE

SUBJECT: TAPLINE SABOTAGE

REF: BEIRUT 4402

SUMMARY: UNSUCCESSFUL NEW SABOTAGE ATTEMPT AGAINST
TAPLINE PIPELINE REPORTED. TAPLINE AUTHORIZED SUPPLY
MEDRECO REFINERY. TAPLINE PLANNING BRIEF HIGHEST GOL
LEVELS ON SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR LEBANON'S PETROLEUM
INDUSTRY OF FURTHER TERRORIST SUCCESSES. EMBASSY HAS
OFFERED ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. PRES AND TAPLINE REPORT NEW SABOTAGE ATTEMPT AGAINST
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 04456 171637 Z

PIPELINE ITSELF. ABOUT 1300 LOCAL APR 15 NEAR DEIR ZAHIRANI, 15 KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST TERMINAL, PATROL FOUND BLAST CRATER AT POINT WHERE PIPELINE UNDERGROUND. PIPE WEAKENED AND WILL REQUIRE REINFORCING BUT THROUGHPUT UNAFFECTED. ALTHOUGH NOT CERTAIN, TAPLINE INCLINED BELIEVE ATTEMPT OCCURRED ABOUT 24 HOURS AFTER SATURDAY RAID ON TERMINAL FACILITIES. MAIN EVIDENCE TIMING APPEARS TO BE THAT AREA RESIDENT HEARD EXPLOSION MORNING APRIL 15.

2. TAPLINE RECEIVED AUTHORITY FROM NEW YORK MORNING APR 17 SUPPLY MEDRECO REFINERY FROM TAPLINE TANK FARM, AVERTING POSSIBILITY LOCAL SUPPLY SHORTAGE. SUPPLIES SHOULD START TODAY.

3. DAVID DOGE, TAPLINE GOVT RELATIONS, REPORTS THAT LEBANESE ARMY IS PROVIDING REASONABLE SECURITY FOR INSTALLATIONS. GIVEN SIZE OF THE OIL COMPLEX, THE ARMY, HOWEVER, DOES NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO PROVIDE 100 PERCENT PROTECTION. DOLCVIS SEEKING APPOINTMENTS WITH BOTH PRESIDENT FRANGIEH AND GENERAL GHANEM, ARMY COMMANDER- IN- CHIEF, TO MAKE CLEAR TO THEM THE IMPLICATIONS OF FURTHER TERRORIST ACTION AGAINST THE TAPLINE/ MEDRECO COMPLEX. FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD THE REFINERY BE DESTROYED, THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY MEDRECO WOULD NOT RPT NOT REBUILD IT.

4. WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTINUOUS TOUCH WITH TAPLINE BEFORE AND SINCE THE INCIDENTS AND HAVE OFFERED TO APPROACH THE GOVERNMENT IF THE COMPANY SO DESIRED. WE REPEATED OFFER APR 17. TAPLINE IS ON THE WHOLE SATISFIED WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S COOPERATION. DOGE HAS SO FAR NOT DEEMED OUT INTERVENTION NECESSARY.

5. TAPLINE CRUDE EXPORTS CONTINUING BUT WE NOW LEARN THAT ONLY TWO OF THREE TANKER BERTHS IN USE. PIPE FEEDING THIRD BERTH DAMAGED IN APR 14 RAID.

6. RAIDERS REMAIN UNIDENTIFIED. ARMY HAS NO HARD EVIDENCE OF FEDAYEEN RESPONSIBILITY. VPVT CONVINCED THEY RESPONSIBLE BASES MODUS OPERANDI, PRIOR THREATS AND LACK OTHER PLAUSIBLE SUSPECTS. PRIOR THREATS (BEIRUT 3642 MAR 30 NOTAL, RE BSO PLAN) CERTAINLY POINT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 04456 171637 Z

FEDAYEEN AS PERPETRATORS. FULL GOL DEFMIN STATEMENT

MENTIONDSMBDARA 3, BEIRUT 4402, REPORTED FBIS KYRENIA
0233 142152 Z.
BUFFUM

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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